

Lower Putah Creek Watershed Assessment and Stewardship Implementation Program

Solano County Water Agency/Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee



Bird box program field work in progress.

Award Amount
\$600,000

Watershed
Lower Putah Creek Watershed

County
Solano and Yolo Counties

CALFED Region
Sacramento Valley Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 7 and 10
State Assembly: 8
State Senate: 5

Purpose

Restore ecosystem processes and aquatic and terrestrial habitats in Lower Putah Creek Watershed.

Project Goals

- Facilitate stakeholder process to identify issues of concern.
- Conduct a comprehensive biological and physical resource assessment.
- Develop a stakeholder-based Watershed Management Action Plan.
- Implement restoration and enhancement projects.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

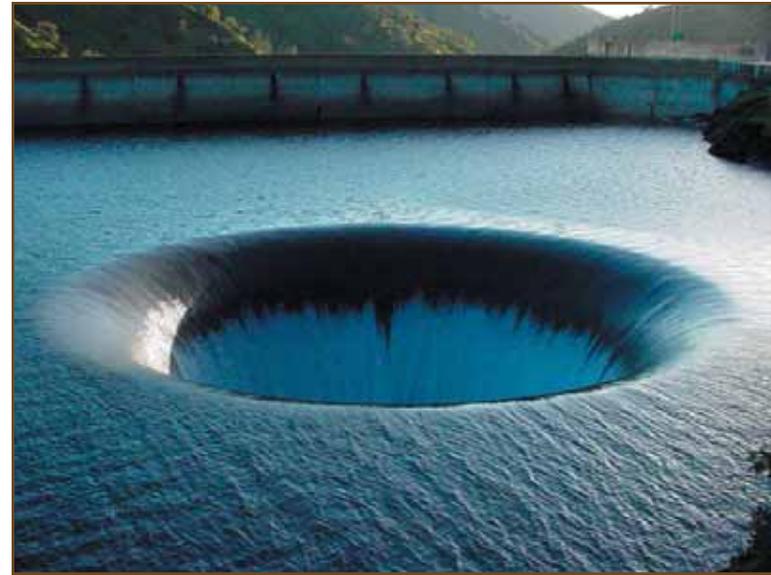
The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan identifies improvements to streamflow and riparian habitats within the Sacramento Valley as critically important, and has set a priority for providing permanent connections between the mouth of Putah Creek and the Delta to increase opportunities for steelhead trout and fall-run Chinook salmon to use Putah Creek. This project is assisting with this goal and leading to a healthier, more intact stream system; providing high quality habitat for fish, wildlife and native plant species; and increasing recreational opportunities for the communities along the creek. This project also contributes to the goals and objectives of the CALFED Program by building local capacity to better manage the Putah Creek Watershed and achieve improved water quality within the Bay-Delta system.

Project Overview

This project is a component of a three-phased approach to restore ecosystem processes and aquatic and terrestrial habitats in the Lower Putah Creek Watershed, including Lower Putah Creek and its tributaries. The lower Putah Creek Watershed begins at Monticello Dam (Lake Berryessa) and continues 30 miles downstream to Putah Creek's confluence with the Yolo Bypass, which carries Putah Creek water to the Bay-Delta. Although the lower Putah Creek represents one of the most extensive remaining tracts of high quality wildlife habitat in Yolo and Solano Counties, and is home to a unique assemblage of fish and special-status wildlife species, it suffers from substantial infestations of invasive weeds, eroding banks and causing habitat loss and degradation, flood-related problems, and non-point source pollution. The three-phased approach includes:

- Phase I: Stakeholder facilitation and identification of issues
- Phase II: Development of a comprehensive biological and physical resource assessment and development of a stakeholder-based Watershed Management Action Plan
- Phase III: Implementation of technically defensible and sustainable restoration and enhancement projects.

This project continues the progress made under Phase I and expands its geographic scope to include Pleasant Creek. This project also initiates and implements the Phase II comprehensive resource assessment of lower Putah Creek and its tributaries. As part of Phase III, this project implements the specific prioritized and urgent restoration and enhancement actions and continues projects already identified or underway. As the project progresses, additional Phase III projects will be identified that could be funded by other sources.



Lake Berryessa's morning glory spillway.

Contact Information

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